

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below:

5 1. (Currently amended) A method of bleaching cellulose pulp in a bleaching line, having at least two bleaching steps comprising:  
providing a first and a second bleaching step, as seen in a flow direction of pulp, the bleaching steps having wash  
10 apparatuses for the pulp arranged after the first and the second bleaching steps, respectively,  
leading wash liquor counter-currently to a pulp flow through the bleaching steps,  
supplying a ~~substantial~~ portion of the wash liquor by means  
15 of a main conduit,  
independently supplying the wash apparatuses by means of first branch conduits connected to the main conduit,  
each of the wash apparatuses independently bleeding out wash  
filtrate by means of second branch conduits connected to the  
20 main conduit, and  
the main conduit having an outlet end for bleeding out a portion of the wash filtrate from the wash apparatuses.

25 2. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein main conduit has an inlet end which under steady state conditions continuously is fed with wash liquid and an outlet end which under steady state conditions continuously bleeds out at least some of the wash filtrate from the main conduit.

30 3. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the inlet and outlets ends are arranged at opposite ends of the main conduit with the branch conduits connected to the main conduit between the inlet and the outlet ends.

4. (Previously amended) A method according claim 1 wherein the main conduit is connected to receive and distribute filtrate that is mainly acidic or mainly alkaline.

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5. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein there are two main conduits, one to receive and distribute mainly alkaline filtrate and one to receive and distribute mainly acidic filtrate.

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6. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the method further comprises providing a first branch position in an upstream end of the main conduit and a main pressurising device that supplies fresh wash liquid and pressurizes the main conduit and establishes a basic flow in the main conduit in a direction in the main conduit in reverse to a formed flow of the pulp in a bleaching line, the pressurising device being connected to the main conduit at a position at an opposite end in the main conduit in relation to the outlet end.

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7. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein filtrate is led to the main conduit via a pump device.

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8. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the main conduit is maintained at a pressure of at least 0,5 bar above atmospheric pressure.

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9. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the pressure within the main conduit is maintained, during steady state, at a pressure below 3 bar.

10. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein wash liquor is led from the main conduit to the wash apparatuses via supply lines by means of pump devices.

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11. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein dilution liquid is supplied directly via a branch line connected to the main conduit.
- 5 12. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the pressure in the main conduit, during steady state, is maintained within a range of 3 - 20 bar above atmospheric pressure.
- 10 13. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein an intermediate bleach step is provided intermediate the bleach steps.
- 15 14. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the outlet end is controlled by a pressure and flow control valve.
- 20 15. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the pressure and flow control valve provides feed back control of a main pressurising device to secure a predetermined pressure and/or flow through the main conduit.
- 25 16. (Previously amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein a flow at the outlet end, during steady state, is within a range 0,1 - 12 m<sup>3</sup>.
- 30 17. (Currently amended) A bleaching line for bleaching cellulose pulp in a bleaching line, comprising: at least two bleaching segments having a first and a second bleaching step, as seen in a flow direction of pulp, the bleaching segments having wash apparatuses for the pulp arranged after the first and the second bleaching segments, wash liquor is led via bleach lines counter-currently to the flow direction of the pulp through the bleaching segments each one of the wash apparatuses being independently connected

to a main conduit by means of first branch conduits,  
each one of the wash apparatuses (W4, W5) being independently  
connected to the main conduit to bleed out wash filtrate by  
means of second branch conduits, and  
5 the main conduit being arranged with an outlet end to bleed  
out at least some of the wash filtrate from the wash  
apparatuses.

18. (Previously amended) A bleaching line according to claim  
10 17, wherein the outlet end is arranged opposite an inlet end  
of the main conduit, the branch conduits being connected to  
the main conduit between the inlet end and the outlet end.

19. (Previously amended) A bleaching line according to claim  
15 17 wherein there are two main conduits, one to receive and  
distribute mainly alkaline filtrate and one to receive and  
distribute mainly acidic filtrate.

20. (Previously amended) A bleaching line according to claim  
20 17 wherein a first branch position is arranged in an upstream  
end of the main conduit and a main pressurising device to  
supply fresh wash liquid and to pressurise the main conduit.

21. (Currently amended) A method bleaching line according to  
25 claim 17 wherein a pump device is arranged within at least one  
of the branch conduits to pump the filtrate to the main  
conduit.

22. (Previously amended) A bleach line according to claim 17  
30 wherein there is arranged at least one branch line connected  
to the main conduit to supply dilution liquid to at least one  
position of the bleach lines.

23. (Previously amended) A bleaching line according to claim  
35 17 wherein the outlet end is arranged with a control device.

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24. (Previously amended) A bleaching line according to claim  
23 wherein the control device is connected to a pressure  
sensing device to control pressure and/or flow in the main  
5 conduit.